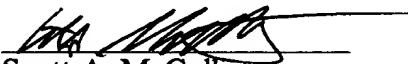


Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered prior to substantive examination of the application. The subject amendments are created to place the application in accord with traditional U.S. practice.

Respectfully submitted,
FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP



Scott A. McCollister

Reg. No. 33,961
1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2518
(216) 861-5582

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **EXPRESS MAIL** in an envelope numbered **EL 852783367 US** addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 22, 2001.

By: 
Benjamin Trella

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder [(1)] [having] comprising a grip [(4)], in which can be inserted a [silk] floss supply spool, a fork [(2)] with two prongs [(3)], between which can be stretched [a dental silk] floss, as well as at least one holding element [(8)] for locking the [dental silk] floss, [characterized in that] wherein the grip [(4)] has a substantially drop-shaped construction and [that the grip (4)] is connected to the fork [(2)] by means of an arm [(9)], the at least one holding element [(8)] being fitted to the top of the arm and a guide for the floss being formed as a depression or groove within the grip.

2. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder according to claim 1, characterized in that the grip [(4)] is constructed as a shell construction.

3. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder according to claim 1[or 2], characterized in that the arm length is [approximately] about 0 to [approximately] about 7 cm.

4. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the diameter of the drop-shaped grip[(4)] is [approximately] about 3 to [approximately] about 7 cm.

5. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the prongs [(3)] of the fork [(2)] have a cross-section of [approximately] about 1 to [approximately] about 3 mm.

6. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the prongs [(3)] of the fork [(2)] are bent downwards and outwards with respect to the longitudinal axis of the dental [silk] floss holder.

7. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the grip has two parts, the first part [(4a)] having a shell-shaped construction and the second part [(4b) is] constructed as a detachable

or fold-down lid.

8. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that within the grip [(4) is contained] a post [(10), which] extends substantially perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the dental [silk] floss holder.

9. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the grip is provided with a resiliently mounted locking mechanism [(12)], which has a post [(13)] operable by pressure for releasing the locking action.

10. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder according to claim 9, characterized in that the resilient[ly] mounting is implemented by a spring element [(15)] and that the grip [(4)] has securing elements [(16)] for preventing [the jumping out] a loss of the spring element [(15)].

11. (Amended) Dental [silk] floss holder according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that it has a cutting device [(11)] for cutting off the used dental [silk] floss.

12. (New) Dental floss holder according to claim 1, characterized in that it is provided with a means for imparting high frequency oscillations to the floss.